

Urban District of Caerphilly.



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Annual Report

1941.

W. R. NASH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

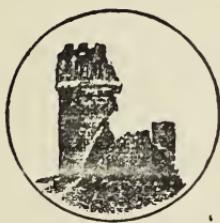
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COMMITTEES.

Health, Hospital, Public Cleansing and Plans Committees.

Chairmen—

HEALTH—	Councillor D. I. Edmunds
HOSPITAL—	Councillor E. Phillips
PUBLIC CLEANSING—	Councillor E. Lewis
PLANS—	Councillor E. Morgan

Members—

Councillor	W. F. Rowland
"	E. Phillips
"	W. A. Clark
"	D. I. Edmunds
"	(Mrs.) Harris
"	E. Morgan
"	Edwin Lewis
"	T. J. Coggins

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

Chairman—

Councillor (Mrs.) Harris

Members—

Councillor	(Mrs.) Harris
"	J. Beddoe
"	T. Edwards
"	M. V. Harding
"	W. Howard
"	D. P. Thomas
"	J. Roberts
"	G. George
"	W. Davies
"	G. Smith
"	Dr. W. A. Clark
"	E. Morgan
"	T. Jenkins
"	E. Phillips
"	W. D. Davies

CO-OPTED MEMBERS—

Mrs. T. Jones	Mrs. A. Rowlands	Mrs. Lawrence
Mrs. H. Williams	Mrs. G. Jones	Mrs. K. Hughes
Mrs. Rhys Davies	Mrs. Adams	

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health—

W. R. NASH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer (part time) —

J. S. BRIGGS, M.B.

Consultant Medical Staff for Maternity and Child Welfare —

Obstetrics - Professor GILBERT D. STRACHAN

Paediatrics - A. G. WATKINS, M.D., M.R.C.S.

Orthopaedic - A. O. PARKER, M.D., C.M.

Medical Officer to Gynaecological Clinic—

SYBIL MORGAN, B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspectors—

A.B. W. LLOYD JONES

A.B. W. R. LIDDINGTON

Inspector of Petroleum and Explosives—

A.B. W. LLOYD JONES

Health Visitors—

C.E. E. DIXON

A.C.E.F. C. THOMAS

C.E.F. T. NOLAN

Matron, Isolation Hospital—

C.D.E. K. OWENS

Clerical Staff—

R. JAMES

A. LEWIS

- A. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate
- B. Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate
- C. State Registered Nurse
- D. State Registered Fever Nurse
- E. Certificate of Central Midwives' Board
- F. Health Visitor's Certificate

CAERPHILLY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health

*Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Caerphilly.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Caerphilly Urban District Council.*

MRS. HARRIS AND GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I herewith beg to submit an abbreviated Annual Report for the year 1941.

As the report for 1940 was not fully comprehensive, so is the one for 1941, but all details remain available for a complete survey of the whole war period.

On grounds of national security the Registrar-General has requested that complete tables of local populations, or quotations from the figures supplied by him, which may enable any substantial series of local population to be reconstructed, should be omitted from the Annual Report. Further, no reference may be made to the activities in connection with war-time industrial, military, or other important developments in the area. Hence the only statistics to be found in the report for this year are the actual number of births, deaths, infantile and maternal deaths; number of cases of infectious diseases notified and their fatality rates.

The proposals with reference to War-time Nurseries, a Government Emergency Hostel at Senghenydd House; increased A.R.P. responsibilities with regard to equipment, etc. is rapidly bringing the administrative capacity of this department to saturation point.

In November, 1941, Miss Audrey Lewis was appointed as an additional Clerk, whose duties, *inter alia*, included the relief of Health Visitors from the sales of Food.

I again express my thanks to the whole Public Health Staff for their loyal co-operation.

I am,
Mrs. Harris and Gentlemen.
Your obedient Servant,

W. R. NASH,
Medical Officer of Health.

**Summary of
General and Vital Statistics.**

Area (Land)	-	-	-	12,931 Acres
Population (Census 1931)	-	-	-	
Population Estimated Mid 1941	.	.	-	
Number of Houses erected in 1941	-	-	-	Nil
Total Number of Inhabited Houses	-	-	-	7,600
Estimated Number of Persons per occupied House	-	-	-	
Rateable Value	-	-	-	£108,831
Estimated Product of 1d. Rate	-	-	-	£409
Live Births (Registered)	-	-	-	725
Birth Rate per 1,000	-	-	-	
Deaths	-	-	-	506
Death Rate per 1,000	-	-	-	15.3
Excess of Births over Deaths	-	-	-	119
Deaths under one year	-	-	-	58
Rate per 1,000 Live Births	-	-	-	
Deaths of Women in Child Birth :—				
		Number		Rate per 1,000 Live Births.
Puerperal Causes	-	5		

Deaths from Various Causes.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid and Parat. Fevers	....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cerebro Spinal Fever	....	4	0	4
Scarlet Fever	....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	....	1	1	2
Diphtheria	....	4	4	8
Tuberculosis, Respiratory System	....	13	13	26
Tuberculosis, other Causes	....	2	1	3
Syphilitic Diseases	....	2	1	3
Influenza	....	7	4	11
Measles	....	1	1	2
Acute Polio-myel. and Polio-enceph.	....	Nil	Nil	Nil
Acute Inf. enceph.	....	1	0	1
Cancer of b. cav. and oesoph. (M.) uterus (F.)	....	2	4	6
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	....	3	3	6
Cancer of Breast	....	0	3	3
Cancer of other sites	....	19	6	25
Diabetes	....	3	2	5
Intra-cran. vacs. lesions	....	25	10	35
Heart Disease	....	48	40	88
Other Disease of Circulatory System	....	3	1	4
Bronchitis	....	37	20	57
Pneumonia	....	20	9	29
Other Respiratory Diseases	....	5	2	7
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	....	6	0	6
Diarrhoea, under 2 years	....	0	2	2
Appendicitis	....	1	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	....	2	11	13
Nephritis	....	4	5	9
Puer. and Post-abort. Sepsis	....	0	2	2
Other Maternal Causes	....	0	3	3
Premature Birth	....	5	7	12
Con, Mal. Birth Inj., Infant. Disease	....	10	3	13
Suicide	....	4	0	4
Road Traffic Accidents	....	6	0	6
Other Violent Causes	....	16	4	20
All other Causes	....	47	43	90
		—	—	—
		301	205	506
		—	—	—

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(A). Laboratory Facilities.

The County and City Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff continued to serve the area during the year. The examination of diphtheria swabs, cerebro-spinal fluid, virulence tests and examination of milk and water samples comprised most of the work submitted. The total cost of this service was £107.

(B). Ambulance Facilities.

The position is as reported in the report for the previous year. The cost of providing ambulances for street accidents and the conveying of maternity cases to Cardiff Royal Infirmary and Llwynypia Hospital was £44.

(C). Nursing in the Home.

The various Nursing Associations employ a trained Nurse for their members.

Following representations regarding the amount of home nursing for evacuees with minor ailments, the Council granted an annual payment of £5 to each Association.

(D.) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

As in previous Annual Reports.

(E). Hospitals—Public and Voluntary.

As in Annual Report for 1940.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(I). Maternity Services.

These remained as for the past two years, with the attendances at Ante-Natal Clinics still showing a slight increase.

There were 58 deaths of children under 1 year, which shows some improvement in the infant mortality rate. However, the infantile mortality rate is still high. Thirteen of these cases died in other areas after transference to Hospitals, etc.

The causes of infantile deaths are as follows :—

Prematurity	....	12
Convulsions	....	12
Broncho Pneumonia	....	16
Acute Bronchitis	....	3
Marasmus	....	3
Congenital Hypertrophic Stenosis	....	1
Meningitis	....	3
Diphtheria	....	1
Spina Bifida	....	1
Inter Cranial Hæmorrhage	....	1
Næfæna Neonatorum	....	1
Haemotysis Huseum	....	1
Gastro Enteritis	....	1
Cardiac Disease	....	1
Asphyxia Pallide	....	1
Asphyxia Atelectasis	....	1
Unknown	....	1
	—	60
	—	

It will be seen that the three great scourges of infantile life, viz. Broncho Pneumonia, Prematurity and Convulsions remain the principal causes of death.

Provision of Milk, etc.

The following table shows the amount spent on additional nourishment for expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age for the past eight years :—

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Fresh Milks -	£720	£696	£863	£546	£854	£997	£258	Nil
Dried Milk -	£687	£725	£702	£874	£889	£542	£144	£32
	£1,407	£1,421	£1,595	£1,420	£1,743	£1,539	£402	£32

The effect of the scheme for Infant Feeding developed by the Ministry of Food is shown in the above table. The amount spent by the Council represents free issue of dried milk to necessitous cases, when the National Dried Food is found to be unsuitable. These foods are available for purchase on medical advice.

The benefit derived from the provision by the Ministry of Food of Orange and Black Currant Juices to children under 2 years cannot be overestimated. The whole nutritinal standard has been improved by this. Cod Liver Oil, Virol, Horlick's Malted Milk, etc were made available free of charge or at cost price in all Infant Welfare Centres, whilst certain Medicants were also supplied free of charge.

Dental Treatment.

Dental treatment for expectant mothers and children under five years was provided by arrangement with the Education Committee of the Glamorgan County Council. The provision of dentures for expectant mothers is free if the resources of the home are within the Council scale, and the cost to the Council of this service was £25.

Orthopædic Treatment.

Children requiring orthopædic treatment are seen at the school orthopædic clinics of the Education Committee of the Glamorgan County Council. Appliances prescribed are obtained from the Prince of Wales Hospital, Cardiff, and supplied free if the income of the home warrants it. In the event of in-patient treatment being required, the child is admitted to this Hospital, and all maintenance charges borne by the Council.

Consultant and Hospital Maternity Facilities.

During the year 10 cases were referred for consultation to Professor Strachan and 37 complicated cases of child birth were admitted to Cardiff Royal Infirmary Maternity Wards. The cost of these services was £340 for the year, whilst conveyances were provided amounting to £45. Many of the complications of pregnancy were toxæmias requiring dietetic supervision and rest, and the provision of a few beds in a local hospital for this purpose would be pleasanter for the patients and their friends and less costly for the Council.

The Ministry of Health opened a Maternity Home at Llanfrechfa Grange under the administration of the Monmouthshire County Council. This was primarily intended for evacuees, but the Council arranged with the Monmouthshire County Council to admit normal cases of pregnancy, where the home conditions were unsuitable for child birth on grounds of size overcrowding, cleanliness, etc. During the year 6 cases were admitted to this Home, whilst 2 cases were admitted to Llwynypia Hospital directly through this Council.

Other Services.

Other services provided by the Council under the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee are Home Helps, treatment of defective vision, removal of Tonsils and Adenoids, and X-Ray facilities.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Water Supply.

During the year, the Hamlet of Groeswen was connected to the mains of the Rhymney Valley Water Board, by means of an old pipe line. The supply is maintained by the installation of a 30,000 gallon tank, which fills up at night.

Ten samples were taken during the year, and all proved satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

At the Garth Engineering Works, Taffs Well, the cesspools have been dispensed with and the Works are now connected with the Council sewer via Forest Row. This necessitated the installation of water tanks, and the construction of a syphon to carry sewage over the Glamorgan Canal. The arrangement is working most satisfactorily.

The Council contributed the sum of £250 towards the cost.

Rivers and Streams.

As in previous years. There is no evidence of additional pollution owing to increased factory activities.

Cesspits and Closet Accommodation.

During the year 13 cesspits were cleaned at a cost of £20 1s. 6d.

There has been no conversion from conservancy into water carriage system.

Public Cleansing.

The position is substantially unchanged, but there is no doubt that there is need of increased personnel and vehicles. The difficulties have been accentuated by the collection of salvage.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections made under the Public Health Act	1796
Investigations and Visits in cases of Infectious	
Disease	211
--	--
Revisits to unabated Nuisances	2032
Premises Disinfected	254
--	--

The following visits and inspections were made in connection with the following :—

Water Supply	---	---	729
Drainage	---	---	633
Stables and Piggeries	---	---	80
Offensive Trades	---	---	36
Fried Fish Shops	---	---	52
Common Lodging Houses	---	---	12
Tents, Vans and Sheds	---	---	108
Factories	---	---	961
Bakehouses	---	---	93
Public Conveniences	---	---	178
Places of Entertainment	---	---	52
Refuse Collection	---	---	1111
Rats and Mice Destruction	---	---	67
Schools	---	---	56
Shops	---	---	1793
Miscellaneous Visits	---	---	1298

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The process for eradication remains as in previous years. Several private and Council houses were disinfested. The influx of evacuees has undoubtedly led to an increase of the vermin.

Schools.

As in previous years.

Housing.

Every effort has been made to maintain the standard laid down in the Housing Act, 1936, and the high standard of working class housing always adopted by this Council. The last Census in 1938 showed an overcrowding index of 1.03, and by all standards in any place, at any time, this was eminently satisfactory.

It must be recorded that the war and evacuee influx has led to a much lower standard of repair and condition of houses throughout the area. It has also been necessary to allow certain tenements to be occupied by large evacuee families which could not be accommodated or kept together elsewhere, which tenements would normally be forthwith condemned.

Temporary Dwellings.

Visited during the Year	...	...	108
Demolished	...	...	Nil
Vacant at the end of the Year	...	...	Nil
Total number remaining at end of Year			89

Many of these dwellings remain unsatisfactory.

Milk Supply.

Number of Cowsheds in the area	....	96
Number of Inspections to Cowsheds	...	236
Number of Dairies in the area	....	117
Number of Inspections of Dairies	....	331

The number of samples of milk taken was 68, an increase of 39 over the preceding year. There were 15 bad samples taken, whilst in the preceding year only 8 were discovered. In all cases the faults were remedied and the milk rendered fit for human consumption.

The great improvement in the supervision of this important branch of public health work was entirely due to the increased facilities given to your Sanitary Inspectors by the provision of transport. The expenditure of £50 has proved an excellent investment and has resulted in an improved standard of milk production throughout the area.

The following are licensed to produce and sell Tuberculin Tested Milk :—

Mr. A. E. Pritchard, Energlyn Farm, Caerphilly
 Mr. A. E. Edmunds, Ty Isaf Farm, Caerphilly

There are also two producers of Accredited Milk :—

Messrs. J. J. Phillips, Garth Farm, Abertridwr
 Mr. S. Thomas, Pen-y-Waun Farm, Nelson

Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

There are no licensed slaughtermen in the area, four continue to pay their annual licensing fee.

No meat is slaughtered in the area, except a few bacon pigs. Meat is obtained chiefly from government controlled abattoirs at Cardiff, Pontypridd and Maesycwmmer. As there are no inspections of slaughterhouses, the number of visits to butchers' shops has increased to 439.

From these shops the following meats pronounced unfit for human consumption were removed ;—

Beef	...	...	1316 lbs.
Lamb	...	...	89 lbs.
Pork	...	...	90 lbs.
Onions	...	...	813 lbs.
Canned Milk		...	97 tins
Bacon	...	...	300 lbs.
Canned Pork		...	6 lbs.
Corned Beef		...	6 lbs.
Canned Steak		...	4 tins
Custard Powder		...	72 pkts.
Cheese	...	...	9 lbs.
Cheese Spread		...	12 lbs.
Margarine	...	...	26 lbs.
Beans	...	...	3 tins

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifiable Diseases (except Tuberculosis).

Disease according to Notification.	Cases Notified	Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Number of Deaths
Small Pox	...	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	...	32	32
Diphtheria	...	104	104
Typhoid and Para Typhoid	...	5	Nil
Pneumonia (Acute Primary and Influenza)	...	26	Nil (all forms)
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	17	17 4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	...	10	Nil
Dysentery	...	2	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	8	8 Nil
Measles	...	281	Nil 2
Whooping Cough	...	70	Nil 2

**Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Cerebro-Spinal
Fever incidence during the past 16 Years.**

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Cerebro-Spinal Fever
	Cases & Deaths	Cases & Deaths	Cases & Deaths
1926 ...	12 1	79 2	1 Nil
1927 ...	35 Nil	152 6	1 Nil
1928 ...	69 Nil	76 6	Nil Nil
1929 ...	150 1	135 3	Nil Nil
1930 ...	132 Nil	164 8	Nil Nil
1931 ...	56 Nil	33 1	Nil Nil
1932 ...	111 Nil	70 8	Nil Nil
1933 ...	255 Nil	159 3	Nil Nil
1934 ...	195 1	167 7	Nil Nil
1935 ...	73 Nil	174 12	Nil Nil
1936 ...	49 Nil	122 19	1 1
1937 ...	205 Nil	68 1	1 1
1938 ...	268 1	65 1	2 2
1939 ...	195 Nil	22 3	4 3
1940 ...	109 Nil	130 6	26 7
1941 ...	32 Nil	104 8	17 4

Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the number of new cases, and mortality from Tuberculosis during 1941:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
5—	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1
15—	5	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
25—	8	4	0	2	5	4	0	0
35—	1	8	1	3	2	3	0	0
45—	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
55—	3	3	0	0	3	3	0	0
65—	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
	19	15	5	8	13	13	2	1

Tuberculosis Death Rate.

Year	Estimated Population	Deaths from Pul. T.B.	Deaths from Non-Pul. T.B.	Total	Phthisis Death Rate	T. B. (all forms) Rate
1941	33920	26	3	29	.765	.853
1940	31630	25	9	34	.795	1.142
1939	31990	23	7	30	.713	.938
1938	32180	19	6	25	.594	.781
1937	32570	26	5	28	.291	.859
1936	33370	22	4	26	.659	.779
1935	34150	25	4	29	.756	.846
1934	34612	31	10	41	.895	1.183
1933	35000	30	11	41	.857	1.171
1932	35270	29	7	36	.822	1.021
1931	36120	22	9	31	.609	.856
1930	39380	34	7	41	.863	1.041
1929	39380	27	10	37	.687	.939
1928	39680	46	4	50	1.164	1.260
1927	39970	31	8	39	.750	1.026
1926	40000	34	17	51	.850	1.275
1925	40530	29	10	39	.715	.959
1924	39850	34	11	45	.853	1.129
1923	39000	27	10	37	.691	.949
1922	38520	39	6	45	1.013	1.165
1921	37630	26	9	35	.691	.932

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury of the eyes.

Air Raid Precautions.

During the year the personnel of the Casualty Service remained loyal to their Stations, and when the time comes to describe what has been done, this personnel will be found to have shown a devotion to duty and a sense of public spirit second to none in this country.

BYE-LAWS.

The Council have the following Bye-Laws with respect to :—

The Cleansing of Footways and Pavements	--	7th November, 1894
Nuisances	--	8th November, 1894
Common Lodging Houses	--	8th November, 1894
Slaughter Houses	--	8th November, 1894
Offensive Trades	--	8th November, 1894
Nuisances in connection with the Removal of Offensive or Noxious Matters	--	8th November, 1894
Tents, Vans, etc.	--	16th July, 1907
Cemeteries	--	27th January, 1930
New Streets and Buildings	--	2nd April, 1930







